

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, today the House of Representatives considers an important bill to improve and strengthen U.S. leadership in space exploration. This bill, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act" includes approval of funds for U.S. participation in the International Space Station, funds for aerospace and earth science research and funds for space science programs. These are all important programs and worthy goals. However, I rise to speak in support of an important technology for our future efforts to explore space: funding for research and develop into TransHab technology.

TransHab uses inflatable structure technology to package a much larger living and working volume in the equivalent Shuttle cargo size. In theory, the TransHab concept has more volume and radiation shielding when compared with the current Habitation module. TransHab could also serve as a technology demonstration for the human exploration of Mars. The NASA reauthorization bill currently prohibits NASA from making additional expenditures on any inflatable structure intended to replace current models on the International Space Station. However, the bill does leave the possibility for research and development of crew-related inflatable structures in FY01 and FY02.

I understand the financial concerns the Committee on Science has expressed regarding funding TransHab technology for the International Space Station. Ideally, I would like to see TransHab technology funded now for the station, but I agree that in a time when Congress is struggling to keep the federal budget balanced, all federal programs should receive scrutiny and careful consideration. However, I think that it is very important that the Committee continue to keep the door open on TransHab funding in the future. Those familiar with TransHab technology believe that this technology validates potential technology for future solar system exploration. TransHab technology could possibly mean a manned exploration of Mars which could result in a wealth of scientific information previously unavailable.

I believe that scientific research is vital to the current and future prosperity of our nation. I think we owe it to ourselves, to our nation, and especially to our children to keep the dream of manned space exploration alive. TransHab technology is an investment in our future. To permanently close the door on such research and development jeopardizes this nation's preeminence in science and technology.

In my home state of Delaware, we are fortunate to have ILC Dover, a leader in the aerospace industry and a company that has prov-

en themselves a model for providing aerospace technology in accordance with NASA's new focus: "better, faster, cheaper." ILC Dover has been providing innovative and cost-effective technology since 1947. ILC Dover has helped to provide the technology that put a man on the moon and Pathfinder on Mars, and ILC Dover will continue to help provide technology that will help future space missions in exploring our world.

I am very proud of the research and development conducted by ILC Dover, and I am proud of the contributions ILC Dover has made to the U.S. Space Program. There is a strong commercial interest from committed, innovative companies in the aerospace industry such as ILC Dover in helping to develop TransHab technology. I am encouraged that the Committee has left the door open for TransHab research in development in FY01 and FY02, and I look forward to any future Congressional hearings on the issue.

LEGISLATION TO HONOR FORMER
CONGRESSMAN KIKA DE LA
GARZA

HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to designate the U.S. border station located in Pharr, Texas, as the "Kika de la Garza United States Border Station." The bill is identical to legislation I introduced in the last Congress. That bill was approved unanimously by the House. Unfortunately, no action was taken on the legislation by the other body. I am proud to reintroduce this bill honoring a great legislator, former Congressman Kika de la Garza.

Kika de la Garza was born in Mercedes, Texas on September 22, 1927. He earned his law degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, Texas in 1952. He served in the Navy from 1945 to 1946, and in the Army from 1950 to 1952. He served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1953 to 1965.

In 1964 he was elected to Congress, where he was sent back to Congress by the people of the 15th Congressional District of Texas for 16 terms. In 1981 Kika became the chairman of the House Agriculture Committee. During his 14-year tenure as chairman, Kika compiled an impressive record of achievement and dedicated service to America's farming community.

Most notably, Kika went out of his way to foster a climate of cooperation, inclusiveness and bi-partisanship on the committee. Under his able leadership, the Agriculture Committee was able to form a consensus on a number of important and intricate agricultural issues.

In the 103rd Congress Kika played a lead role in the enactment of legislation revamping and streamlining the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Kika de la Garza guided through legislation that made many needed and important changes, without eviscerating those USDA programs that were effective and needed to help America's farmers and protect the public.

The bill, now law, made remarkable changes at USDA. Because of Chairman de la Garza's leadership and sage counsel, the bill represented the right way to "reinvent" government.

Throughout his 32-year career in Congress Kika never lost sight of the folks back home. He fought tirelessly for his constituents. He also proved to be an able and effective advocate for American farmers. In no small measure because of his leadership, American agriculture remains the envy of the world.

The former chairman is also an amateur linguist and a gourmet cook. On many occasions he conversed with foreign dignitaries in their native tongue. On a personal level, Kika is my good friend, and I am so proud to sponsor this legislation.

I urge all my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation.

HONORING NEW YORK CITY PUBLIC SCHOOL 122 FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute a group of remarkable students and educators. While we see many unfortunate examples of failing schools, it is refreshing to share good news about a public school that is succeeding. New York State public schools test all sixth-grade students for reading ability. Among all the schools in the State of New York, the sixth graders at P.S. 122 finished first in this reading test. Moreover, every sixth-grade student at P.S. 122 ranked at the highest level in reading.

P.S. 122's outstanding accomplishment on this test is considered a citywide triumph because the students overcame competition from more affluent suburban schools. The school attributes this success to its emphasis on exposing children to art, music and theater.

With a diverse student body, P.S. 122 is accomplishing an early goal of public education—preparing immigrants and their children with the necessary tools to build a new life in America. At P.S. 122, Hispanic students comprise almost a third of the student body with Asians making up additional 20%, and African Americans 10%. This School also serves numerous children from Italian, Greek, Indian, Native American, and other backgrounds. Forty percent of the students who succeeded so well in this standardized test began school with "limited proficiency in English." Approximately 65% of the student at P.S. 122 meet the criterion for free school lunches.

The educators at P.S. 122 are to be strongly commended for their success. I particularly want to recognize the principle of P.S. 122, Mary Kojas, whose leadership helped inspire the best from the students who took the test. This spirit no doubt inspired, and continues to inspire, her students to strive for excellence. Mary Kojas and the extraordinary teachers of P.S. 122 have provided that New York City School students can reach the highest levels of achievement when they are properly prepared. The Students of P.S. 122 have also benefited from the support of the School District 30 Superintendent, Dr. Angelo Gimondo and his staff.

The real heroes of this story are the students of P.S. 122. This success demonstrates that hard work has clear and definite rewards. I asks my colleagues to join me in commending all those associated with P.S. 122.